

Maungaraki Views

OUR NEWS & VIEWS | MAUNGARAKI.CO.NZ | JUNE & JULY 2022

Josh reps Hutt Valley at U19 Basketball Nats

Maungaraki School Alum and MCA Sports Grant recipient Josh Crowley Nepia represented Hutt Valley at the U19 Basketball NZ Nationals in Rangiora over Queen's Birthday weekend. "It was a competitive, challenging, and fun four days of basketball with some exciting buzzer beaters and dramatic finishes" said Josh.

Hutt Valley finished 3rd in their group behind Franklin and eventual tournament runner-up North Harbour. "We didn't take the win, but the team played hard and were proud to wear the green and gold." Josh's best game of the tournament was when he dropped 20pts against Canterbury B.

The Maungaraki basketball half court has been a great place for Josh to practice in the lead up to the tourney. "We're really lucky to have this court in our community. It's a great space to play and improve your game." Ed.



Josh Nepia attacks the rim at U19 Nationals

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Pest Free Puke Ariki

Can you imagine kiwi roaming in Belmont Regional Park amongst regenerating native forest while Kaka, Kakariki, and Titipounamu (rifleman) fly overhead?

The Friends of Belmont Regional Park (FoBRP) have this vision for our hills, Puke Ariki, and they hosted a well-attended hui in May to discuss the how, when and who of a pest removal project across our 12,000 hectares.

Members from surrounding community predator-free groups, including Maungaraki, gathered to share a common interest and entertain the viability of such a vision.

Quentin Duthie, convenor of FoBRP and Belmont local, introduced us to some key people involved in inspirational conservation projects from both Wellington and other regions.

Dr Danielle Shanahan, CEO of Zealandia and Korokoro resident, reminded us that as recently as the 1990s, there were only 30 breeding pairs of T¹N in the Wellington region. Now they are a common sight and sound across most suburbs.

Mauri Oho founders Lisa and Jeff shared the beginnings of their

success story engaging with local Maori and iwi to trap predators in the Ruahine range.

To read the full story, please visit <https://maungaraki.co.nz/pest-free-puke-ariki/>
Story by Quentin Duthie.

Treasurer Wanted

The MCA is registered charity and is looking for a Treasurer to help manage our monthly finances.

If you are a Chartered Accountant, Qualified Accountant or possess experience in a role with financial oversight we welcome your interest.

Ideally, you will be available for monthly committee meetings in person or via Skype with a willingness to prepare financial management reports. A Police vet check is required.

If you have a genuine interest in our community and want to volunteer a few hours each month to help make Maungaraki an even better place to live for everyone, please email views@maungaraki.co.nz.



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Hutt Health Woes

Why aren't we using the birthing centre?

In July 2018 Lower Hutt was gifted a state of the art primary birthing centre – the Te Awakairangi Birthing Centre in Melling. It cost the city nothing and it cost nothing to give birth there. I was proud to be there at the opening and I know so many women who have given birth there and loved the experience.

The birthing centre closed last year after the DHB refused to enter into a contract for service with the centre. In other parts of the country, privately run birthing centres have contracts with the DHB, which allows women choice. Some women choose to give birth in the hospital, and they are funded to do so. Those who are eligible and who wish to do can use the birthing centre, with funding following them.

Not so in the Hutt. Over the protestations of Board members like Dr Richard Stein, the DHB has just refused to enter into an agreement with the birthing centre. 6000 people signed a petition I ran

in under a week but that still didn't change their mind. Andrew Little (Health Minister) refused to step in.

Frankly, this is putting ideology ahead of the choices of women. Yes, the birthing centre is privately run. Newsflash: doctors are private businesses. Driving Miss Daisy is a private business. Our health system would collapse without private involvement. The argument is a red herring.

We have a chance to save the birthing centre and get it running again. The ongoing drama over the earthquake prone Heretaunga Block at Hutt Hospital means the DHB is making relocation plans. The birthing centre is just down the road and it makes perfect sense to use it. All the equipment is still there. It's just been mothballed.

I'm determined to get it up and running again. Surely now the DHB will see sense? Let's hope so.

You can sign my petition at: <https://chrisbishop.national.org.nz/usehuttbirthingcentre>

Story supplied by Chris Bishop, National List MP for Hutt South.



exercise
SUPPORTING YOUR WELLBEING

Chris Bishop
List MP based in Hutt South

You can **always** contact my Lower Hutt office for assistance.

Phone **04 566 8580** or email me at Chris.bishopMP@parliament.govt.nz

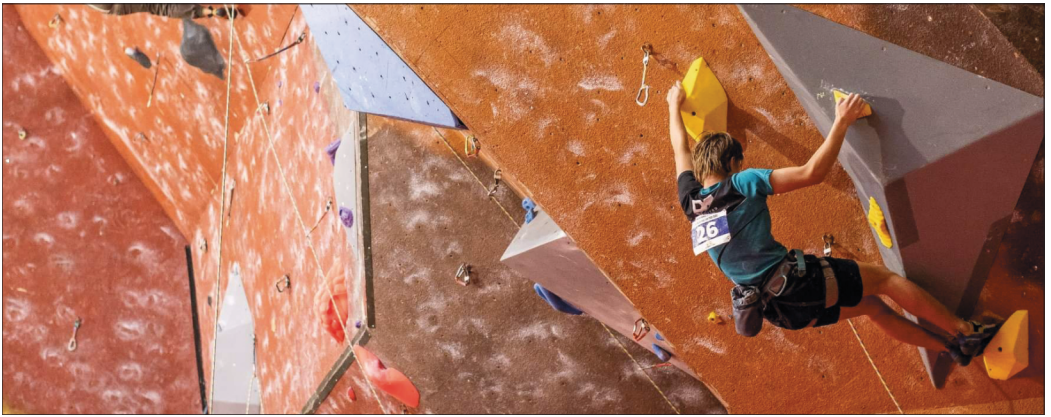
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Will competes at U16 Rock Climbing Nats

Hi, my name is Will Browne, I'm 14 years old and live on Dowse Drive in Maungaraki. In May I headed up to Auckland to compete in the La Sportiva Climbing New Zealand Lead National Championships.

Lead climbing is climbing on the bigger walls with ropes approx 15m high.

I started the weekend off with the qualifying rounds which involve two climbs. On the first climb, I didn't do as well as I hoped coming off the climb about ¾ of the way up due to getting the sequence wrong. In the second climb, I did a lot better topping out the climb which was enough to bump up my result and make it into the finals in 4th place. In the final round (pictured) I

was kind of disappointed with my performance getting about half way up which wasn't enough to put me on the podium, ending up in 5th place overall which isn't my best result ever but pretty good for my first year in the under 16 category. Overall, I had an amazing weekend competing in the sport that I love. Will's excellent performance has gained him selection into the Climbing New Zealand Youth Development Squad.

Congratulations on your achievements Will! Will received an MCA Sports Grant to help him attend this national sports event. The MCA supports our talented youth to help them achieve their goals and dreams. Ed.

	<p>Local Agent Regional Knowledge</p> <h2>Colin Kelly</h2> <p>10 years living in Maungaraki 30 Years selling real estate</p> <p>colin.kelly@raywhite.com 021 439 727 Wellington Regional Supreme Winner. Licensed 2008 REA.</p>		<p>Ginny Andersen MP for Hutt South</p> <p>Petone Office: Monday–Friday, 9am–3pm 176 Jackson Street 04 568 2949</p>   <p>Authorised by Ginny Andersen MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington</p> 
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